

In the Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) A wireless device cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, characterized in that the devicee cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system.

2. (Currently Amended) The devicee cell phone of claim 1 in which the data capture system captures audio and includes a microphone.

3. (Currently Amended) The devicee cell phone of claim 1 in which the steganographic encoder operates transparently to a user of the devicee cell phone, wherein substantially all of the data transmitted by the devicee cell phone is steganographically encoded.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a wireless device cell phone, comprising:

receiving input information;  
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and  
transmitting the steganographically-encoded information by wireless in a digital format.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 which includes:  
receiving the input information in non-digital form;  
expressing the received information in digital form; and  
encoding the digital form of the input information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the input information is audio information.